



**Background Note for the
GITE
Regional Workshop on Transport Sector Inspection and Maintenance Policy in Asia
Bangkok, 10-12 December 2001**

**Sponsored by
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific
In cooperation with the
Japan Automobile Research Institute**

I. Background and Justification

The ability to transport goods and services is a precondition for economic growth and development and contributes significantly to GDP in most countries, but emissions associated with vehicle use have caused environmental and health problems in many of the world's major cities as well as having contributed to global environmental problems. The demand for transportation services has grown considerably during the past 25 years, and this trend is expected to continue in the next 20 years.

Economic growth, increases in per capita income and growth in population in the developing world have contributed to the rising demand for transportation services. Among the similarities characteristic of developing countries has been a marked improvement in the physical infrastructure, including transportation systems. Some developing countries now boast modern road systems and the Asia and Pacific region, in particular, has experienced significant increases in vehicle use during this period. Vehicle use increased by 8.5 percent per year on average for passenger cars and 8.8 per cent for commercial vehicles, and is expected to continue to grow.

Vehicle maintenance can play a role in efforts to reduce per kilometre emissions of pollutants. Although emission and fuel-efficiency performance deteriorate with age, good maintenance practices can greatly reduce the rate of this deterioration. Often, this maintenance involves simple, inexpensive periodic attention to aspects of motor vehicle operation that can significantly affect vehicle performance, such as oil and filter cleaning and replacement, spark plug replacement, spot checks for leaks in the fuel and other fluid delivery systems, and maintenance of correct tyre pressure.

The United Nations and the World Bank have initiated a project entitled *Global Initiative on Transport Emissions (GITE)* to work, together with the private sector, to address emission problems associated with the transport sector in developing countries. This Workshop is undertaken as part of GITE activities. Furthermore, the ninth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development held in April, 2001 encouraged regional cooperation to

promote sustainable development in the transport sector, and specifically recommended making use of inspection and maintenance schemes at the national level.

II. Goals and Objectives

This Workshop aims to assist developing countries in Asia to identify and promote appropriate policies to encourage inspection and maintenance programmes at the national level. It will 1) explore opportunities for regional cooperation in the area of inspection and maintenance, fuel standards, exhaust pipe and safety regulations; 2) provide a forum for sharing country experiences in the design and implementation of vehicle inspection and maintenance programmes; 3) consider legal, organizational and cross-sectoral issues relating to vehicle inspection and maintenance in Asia; and 4) provide input to the inspection and maintenance comparative study of ESCAP member countries being undertaken by the Japanese Automobile Research Institute.

The Workshop is intended to contribute to the Asian region's ability to enforce vehicle safety standards, promote transport energy efficiency and reduce emissions from vehicles.

III. Targeted Participants

The Workshop is aimed at government officials working in the policy arena, as well as private sector experts and relevant NGOs.

IV. Date and Venue

The Workshop will be hosted by the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP.) It will be held at the ESCAP Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand 8-10 December 2001.

VI. Languages

The official language of the Workshop will be English.

VII. Communications

Additional information can be obtained from:

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